Security risk due to traffic of foreign vessels

105. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that going by a study by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), increasing traffic of foreign vessels near the offshore oilfields and POL handling ports could be a security risk;

(b) whethe; the study has pointed out that some of the ports along the East and West coast, which handle 80% of the POL products, are declared "high risk zones"; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard and the action being taken to ensure security of these sensitive areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Tonnage Tax Scheme

106. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started implementing Tonnage Tax Scheme in place of the existing Corporate Tax Scheme on the profits of the shipping industy;

(b) what are the recommendations made by the Rakesh Mohan Committee in this regard;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by Government to implement the Tonnage Tax Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):(a) A Group comprising representatives of the Ministry of Shipping, Indian National Shipowners' Association and the Central Board of Direct Taxes has been constituted to finalise the modalities of the tonnage tax system for the shipping industry.

(b) The recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan Committee in respect of Tonnage Tax are:

(i) A Tonnage Tax Scheme should be implemented and the Indian shipping companies be given the freedom to opt for the tonnage tax regime or continue to remain with the normal corporate tax regime.

(ii) Suitable amendments be incorporated in the Income Tax Act to give effect to the proposed tonnage tax regime.

(iii) Notional income be fixed at a pre-determined rate per 100 NRT per day and charged to tax at the prevailing corporate tax rate.

(iv) A minimum lock-in period 10 years be specified once a company opts for this system.

(v) 20% of the book profits of the companies opting for Tonnage Tax Scheme to be transferred to a separate reserve to be utilized for acquisition of vessels within 8 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Usually no time frame can be specified in the matter of new legislation. As and when the legislation is finalized after sorting out the modalities, the same is introduced in the Parliament.

Single hull ships

107. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the single hull ships with the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) the details of the ships which are more than 23 years of age;

(c) the details of the ships which were built before 1982; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to induct new ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):(a) The details of single hull ships the Shipping Corporation of India are at Statement-l (Seebelow)